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FOURTH COMMITTEE
10th meeting
held on
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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway)

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29 October 1976
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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in order to organize the Committee's debate on agenda items 25, 84, 88 and 12, 89 and 90 in an orderly and effective manner, he would suggest that members interested in speaking on a particular Territory or item might do so on an agreed date. For that reason, although the Committee would consider all the items jointly, specific dates could be set for the consideration of those items to which particular interest was attached by a number of delegations. In the light of past experience and the consultations he had held with the parties concerned, he proposed that the question of French Somaliland should be taken up as of Friday, 29 October or Monday, 1 November. Subsequently, on 3 or 4 November, consideration of the question of Timor could begin. Following that, attention could be devoted to the questions of Belize, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and, finally, Western Sahara. The Committee should work with some flexibility in dealing with the other Territories. He hoped to be able to conclude the general debate on all those items by Wednesday, 10 November.

2. He appealed to members wishing to submit draft resolutions on any of the items indicated to do so at the latest by Wednesday, 10 November so that the Committee could conclude its consideration of those items by 15 November, as had previously been agreed. In order to expedite the Committee's work, he also suggested that the list of speakers for the general debate on those items should be closed on Tuesday, 2 November at 6 p.m.

3. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee agreed with the procedure he had proposed.

4. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 25: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/31/23 (parts IV and V), A/31/23/Add.1, A/31/23/Add.4, A/31/23/Add.6, A/31/23/Add.7 (part I), A/31/23/Add.8 (parts I and III), A/31/23/Add.9 (parts I-III), A/31/23/Add.10, A/31/42, A/31/48, A/31/52, A/31/55, A/31/56, A/31/59, A/31/91, A/31/106, A/31/109, A/31/112, A/31/114, A/31/121, A/31/136, A/31/197, A/31/269)

AGENDA ITEM 84: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/31/23/Add.10):

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

(b) REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

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AGENDA ITEM 88: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (A/31/23 (part V), A/31/65 and Add.1-5, A/31/197, A/31/238):

- (a) REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (A/31/3 (chap. VII (sect. E)), A/31/197, A/31/238)

AGENDA ITEM 89: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

AGENDA ITEM 90: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

5. Mr. GLAYEL (Syrian Arab Republic), Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, introduced chapters II, III, V-VII and X-XXXII of the report of the Special Committee on agenda items 25, 84, 88 and 12, 89 and 90. In preparing the report, the Special Committee had acted in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 4 and 11 of General Assembly resolution 3481 (XXX) in which it had, respectively, approved the report of the Special Committee for 1976 and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories which had not yet attained independence. The Committee had also carried out paragraph 4 of resolution 3420 (XXX) in which the General Assembly had requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII). In studying each individual case, the Special Committee had taken into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session.

6. The Special Committee had not only studied the situation in the colonial Territories, but had also given attention to co-operation by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa and the offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories. With the co-operation of some administering Powers, which had sometimes participated in its work, the Committee had been able to fulfil its mandate and to send visiting missions to study the situation in the Territories. Thus, in May 1976, a visiting mission had been sent to the British Virgin Islands and in June of the same year another mission had visited the Tokelau Islands. However, the most important part of the work of the Special Committee had been the visit to Africa in April and May 1976 of the Ad Hoc Group established by the Special Committee at its 1029th meeting on 1 April 1976. All

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(Mr. Glavel, Syrian Arab Republic)

those visiting missions had provided much first-hand information which the Special Committee had taken into account in considering the various items on the agenda. On many occasions, the Special Committee had praised the administering Powers which had given greater co-operation and, at the same time, had deplored the attitude of other administering Powers which had continued to refuse to co-operate.

7. Among other decisions, the Special Committee had reaffirmed the legitimacy of the struggle of colonial peoples to achieve freedom and independence and their right to self-determination and to exploit and benefit from their natural resources. Similarly, it had expressed satisfaction at the collaboration between United Nations institutions and specialized agencies in the implementation of the Declaration. It had also repeatedly condemned the exploitation of the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the colonial Powers and the co-operation between certain States with the racist minority régimes in southern Africa.

8. With regard to East Timor, French Somaliland (Djibouti), Western Sahara, Gibraltar, Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts, Anguila, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Belize, the Special Committee had decided to authorize its Rapporteur to submit the relevant documentation on each case to the General Assembly to facilitate consideration of those items in the Fourth Committee.

9. Finally, he urged the Committee to approve the conclusions and recommendations contained in the documents he had just submitted.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/31/3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 and Add.1 and 2)

10. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had received a request for a hearing from a representative of the Partai Rakyat Brunei (People's Party of Brunei) regarding Brunei which was reproduced in document A/C.4/31/3. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to agree to that request.

11. It was so decided.

12. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had received a request for a hearing from the representative of the World Peace Council regarding Namibia and Southern Rhodesia, which was reproduced in document A/C.4/31/6.

13. Mr. WU Miao-fa (China) said that his delegation considered that the World Peace Council was a mere tool for the policies of one of the super-Powers which pretended to give support to the liberation struggle. For that reason, he wished to express his delegation's serious reservations concerning that request for a hearing.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to agree to that hearing, subject to the reservations of the Chinese delegation.

15. It was so decided.

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16. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had received a request for a hearing (A/C.4/31/7) from a representative of the Frente Revolucionário Timor Leste Independiente (FRETILIN) regarding Timor.

17. Mr. ABDULDJALIL (Indonesia) pointed out that at the fifth meeting of the present session of the Committee, his delegation had expressed serious reservations concerning the distribution of a letter from FRETILIN as an official document of the Committee and concerning the request for a hearing submitted by that Movement. His delegation reaffirmed its strong opposition to acceptance of the request for a hearing by the representative of FRETILIN.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee, having taken note of the opposition expressed by the delegation of Indonesia, wished to agree to that request.

19. It was so decided.

20. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had received three requests for hearings regarding French Somaliland from representatives of the Ligue populaire africaine pour l'indépendance, the Mouvement populaire de libération and the Union nationale pour l'indépendance. Those requests were contained in documents A/C.4/31/8, Add.1 and 2, respectively. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to agree to the requests.

21. It was so decided.

22. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had received a request for a hearing (A/C.4/31/4) from a representative of the Front Populaire pour la Libération de Saguiet el-Hamra et du Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO) regarding the Western Sahara.

23. Mr. EL HASSEN (Mauritania) said that his delegation had no objection to granting hearings to petitioners since that was a traditional practice in the Committee. However, the request for a hearing under consideration was a special case since it came from a so-called movement for the liberation of the Sahara which, in fact, was no more than a band of mercenaries who followed the policies laid down by countries in the region and which was an insult to genuine liberation movements. He also pointed out that there was a tradition in the Committee not to take up questions relating to the Sahara without their prior submission for consideration by the African Group. The previous year, that Group had devoted many meetings on the question of requests for hearings and had recommended to the Committee that many known Mauritanian citizens should be deleted from the list of petitioners of that so-called movement for the liberation of the Sahara. That had been done in an attempt to facilitate to the maximum the work of the Committee and, above all, avoid lengthy, contradictory and sterile debates which were a mere waste of time. He regretted that the tradition had not been observed in the present case. He considered that, as a courtesy to Mauritania, the Committee should not hear Mauritanian citizens who were not official representatives and who had left their country for reasons of personal ambition or for devious political motivations. His delegation would not oppose the request for a hearing which had been submitted. However, it wished to have its strongest reservations registered in that respect.

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24. Mr. BENGELLOUM (Morocco) said that his delegation did not propose to resurrect the question of hearings of petitioners, which was an established practice in the Fourth Committee. However, with regard to the request for a hearing before the Committee, even a cursory examination of document A/C.4/31/4 revealed certain aspects on which there was no need to comment. He referred to a telegram which, although stated to have been sent from Bir Lahlou had really been sent from another well-known capital. The distinguished members of the Committee would draw the relevant conclusions regarding the value and validity of that document. Similarly, it should be noted that that telegram had been signed by an individual of a so-called liberation front. It was well known what was hidden behind that group. He could see no reason for creating a liberation movement after the liberation of the territory. The question arose as to what the said movement would liberate, what information it could provide that the Committee did not already know and how useful the hearing might be.

25. He pointed out that on various occasions the Organization of African Unity had refused to recognize that pseudo-movement for the liberation of the Sahara and that in Colombo its representatives had not even been able to gain access to the Conference Centre where the Conference of Non-Aligned Countries was being held. Furthermore, the Fourth Committee had already heard a statement by the representative of that so-called movement the previous year. Consequently, he considered that it was not necessary to grant them a new hearing. In those circumstances, his delegation reaffirmed its strongest reservations with regard to those petitioners' request for a hearing and reserved the right to submit to the members of the Committee, at the appropriate time, information which would clarify the root cause of the problem.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee, taking account of the specific reservations of the delegations of Mauritania and Morocco, wished to grant the hearing.

27. It was so decided.

28. The CHAIRMAN said that a request had been received for a hearing regarding French Somaliland. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed that that request be distributed as a document of the Committee.

29. It was so decided.

30. The CHAIRMAN said the Committee would hear the petitioners during the debates on the respective territories, or on other occasions, as convenient.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.